

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims replaces all previous listings.

Claims 1-2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) A method for identifying a candidate compound as a suitable pro-drug, comprising:

- (a) providing the candidate compound having an esterified phosphonate group or an esterified carboxyl group;
- (b) contacting the candidate compound with an extract of peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) having carboxylic ester hydrolase activity to produce a metabolite compound;
- (c) identifying the candidate compound as a suitable pro-drug if the metabolite compound has a phosphonic acid group instead of the esterified phosphonate group of the candidate compound, or a carboxylic acid group instead of the esterified carboxyl group of the candidate compound.

Claims 4-29. (canceled)

30. (currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said contacting step comprises contacting the candidate compound with at least a partially purified fraction of a PBMC extract comprising GS-7340 Ester Hydrolase *in vitro*.

31. (currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said contacting step comprises contacting the candidate compound with at least a partially purified fraction of a PBMC extract comprising GS-7340 Ester Hydrolase in cell culture.

32. (currently amended) The method of claim 31, wherein said contacting step comprises contacting the candidate compound with at least a partially purified fraction of a

PBMC extract comprising GS-7340 Ester Hydrolase in a culture of peripheral blood mononuclear cells.

33. (currently amended) A method for identifying a candidate compound as a suitable pro-drug, comprising:

- (a) providing the candidate compound having an esterified phosphonate group;
- (b) contacting the candidate compound with at least a partially purified fraction of a PBMC extract comprising GS-7340 Ester Hydrolase to produce a metabolite compound;
- (c) identifying the candidate compound as a suitable pro-drug if the metabolite compound has a phosphonic acid group instead of the esterified phosphonate group of the candidate compound.

Claims 34-61. (canceled)

62. (currently amended) The method of claim 33, wherein said contacting step comprises contacting the candidate compound with said extract comprising GS-7340 Ester Hydrolase *in vitro*.

63. (currently amended) The method of claim 33, wherein said contacting step comprises contacting the candidate compound with said extract comprising GS-7340 Ester Hydrolase in cell culture.

64. (currently amended) The method of claim 63, wherein said contacting step comprises contacting the candidate compound with said extract comprising GS-7340 Ester Hydrolase in a culture of peripheral blood mononuclear cells.

65. (currently amended) A method for identifying a candidate compound as a suitable pro-drug, comprising:

- (a) providing the candidate compound having an esterified carboxyl group;

- (b) contacting the candidate compound with at least a partially purified fraction of a PBMC extract comprising GS-7340 Ester Hydrolase to produce a metabolite compound;
- (c) identifying the candidate compound as a suitable pro-drug if the metabolite compound has a carboxylic acid group instead of the esterified carboxyl group of the candidate compound.

Clams 66-92. (canceled)

93. (currently amended) The method of claim 65, wherein said contacting step comprises contacting the candidate compound with said extract comprising GS-7340 Ester Hydrolase *in vitro*.

94. (currently amended) The method of claim 65, wherein said contacting step comprises contacting the candidate compound with said extract comprising GS-7340 Ester Hydrolase in cell culture.

95. (currently amended) The method of claim 94, wherein said contacting step comprises contacting the candidate compound with said extract comprising GS-7340 Ester Hydrolase in a culture of peripheral blood mononuclear cells.

96. (currently amended) A method for identifying a candidate compound as a suitable pro-drug, comprising:

- (a) providing the candidate compound having an esterified phosphonate group or an esterified carboxyl group;
- (b) contacting the candidate compound with an extract of peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) which has carboxylic ester hydrolase activity but does not cleave alpha-naphthyl acetate, to produce a metabolite compound;
- (c) identifying the candidate compound as a suitable pro-drug if the metabolite compound has a phosphonic acid group instead of the esterified phosphonate group of the

candidate compound, or a carboxylic acid group instead of the esterified carboxyl group of the candidate compound.

Claims 97-122. (canceled)

123. (currently amended) The method of claim 96, wherein said contacting step comprises contacting the candidate compound with at least a partially purified fraction of a PBMC extract comprising GS-7340 Ester Hydrolase *in vitro*.

124. (currently amended) The method of claim 96, wherein said contacting step comprises contacting the candidate compound with at least a partially purified fraction of a PBMC extract comprising GS-7340 Ester Hydrolase in cell culture.

125. (currently amended) The method of claim 124, wherein said contacting step comprises contacting the candidate compound with at least a partially purified fraction of a PBMC extract comprising GS-7340 Ester Hydrolase in a culture of peripheral blood mononuclear cells.

Claims 126-180. (canceled)